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Seventy-third year

Culture of peace

Prevention of armed conflict

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Letter dated 30 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

China is the current Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on joint action to counter international terrorism (see annex), which was issued at the seventeenth meeting of the Council of Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in Astana on 9 June 2017.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 34, 109 and 118, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ma** Zhaoxu
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on joint action to counter international terrorism

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, note with great concern that international terrorism continues to present a growing global threat to States' peace, security and sovereignty.

We resolutely condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and emphasize that efforts to counter international terrorism, and cooperation in counter-terrorism, must be conducted in strict compliance with the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally accepted norms of international law, with the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council in a central coordinating role.

We call on all States to implement in their entirety the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We wish to emphasize once again that, in working to achieve effective action against international terrorism on the basis of the rule of law, we consider violations of the principles of State sovereignty, equality of rights and territorial integrity, and non-interference in States' internal affairs, to be inadmissible, and that the use of terrorist and extremist groups to further political and geopolitical objectives is absolutely unacceptable.

We note the increasing threats to global security caused by growing activity on the part of terrorist organizations, a situation which will increase tension in the area covered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We reaffirm our common commitment to countering the variety of organizations and groups recognized as terrorist or extremist in nature in the territories of any of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We acknowledge the importance of further strengthening international cooperation in countering terrorism, and call on the international community to unite in a broad counter-terrorism coalition to combat global terrorism, which is causing destabilization and increasing tension in individual States and entire regions, including the area covered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We support the holding of international high-level meetings on Syria within the Astana process as a vital adjunct to the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva, and encourage broad participation on the part of the international community. We hope that the agreements reached in the framework of the Astana process will lend positive impetus to the political settlement of the Syrian crisis under the auspices of the United Nations as part of the Geneva process in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

We emphasize the need for collective action to counter the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology, including action to prevent and block terrorist and extremist

* The annex is being circulated in Chinese, English and Russian only.

propaganda, incitement to terrorism and extremism, and recruitment, by the Internet and other means. It is also important to agree action to be applied to individuals returning to the territories of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization after taking part in the actions of international terrorist organizations as foreign terrorist fighters.

We regard as inadmissible any public justification of terrorism aimed at incitement to commit or commission of terrorist acts, including justification taking the form of statements by politicians or officials, and we call for closer international cooperation in that connection. We support the proposal of the Russian Federation for a draft Security Council resolution on countering the spread of terrorist ideology, to build on the provisions of the pertinent Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

We declare that terrorist attacks committed by individuals or groups associating themselves with a particular religion or convictions must never serve as the pretext for intolerance towards persons on grounds of their religious affiliation.

We believe it wholly unacceptable to associate terrorism with any religion, and resolutely condemn all manifestations of intolerance, discrimination or violence with regard to Christians, Muslims or representatives of other faiths.

Recognising that States and their competent authorities play the determining role in countering terrorism and extremism, and in any international cooperation in that regard, we believe that to repel terrorist and extremist threats effectively, and to strengthen civil immunity to radical ideas, State efforts must be supplemented by the potential of public structures, the media, religious communities, and educational and research institutions in the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We are convinced that terrorism cannot be countered effectively unless the sources of its funding are definitively cut off, as required by the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, and by the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

With regard to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), we advocate rapidly launching efforts to identify natural and legal persons engaged in economic relations with terrorist organizations, in order to put an end to their criminal activities.

We believe that the maintenance of stability in the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be furthered by continuing to develop cooperation within the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Organization and the expansion of practical counter-terrorism collaboration between States at political level, in intelligence services and the pertinent ministries and departments.

We confirm our shared resolve to promote other multilateral and bilateral interaction in the interests of countering international terrorism effectively.

Astana, 9 June 2017